

**Approved October 15, 2011**

**Rockville Environment Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, September 13, 2011  
At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

**Attendance**

**Commissioners:** John Becker, Steve Cardon, Kris Dighe, Anne Goodman, Alicia Hosmer, Beri Kravitz, Devinie Lye and Clark Reed

**Absent:** Julie Palakovich-Carr

**Guests:** Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management  
Erica Shingara, City of Rockville Environmental Management

**Meeting Commencement**

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm by Chair Dighe.

Introduction of Commissioners and Guests were made.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the July 12, 2011 meeting were reviewed. Reed moved approval and Goodman seconded without revisions. The Commission approved the minutes 5-0 with 3 abstentions reflecting the three newly appointed Commissioners.

**Sustainable Maryland Certified Program**

Erica Shingara briefed the Commission on the *Sustainable Maryland Certified* program and what it would take for Rockville to participate in the program. The program is sponsored by the Maryland Municipal League and the University of Maryland. It is modeled after a similar one in New Jersey. All 157 municipalities in Maryland are eligible. At present, 10 have indicated they intend to pursue certification. She suggested that the Commission consider serving as the core *Green Team* required by the program. Participants will be acknowledged at the Fall 2012 MML Conference. The Commission enthusiastically endorsed moving forward with the program and serving as the Green Team: Kravitz moved and Dighe seconded the motion which was approved 8-0.

**Environmental Excellence Award Nomination**

An Environmental Excellence Award nomination has been submitted for Fitzgerald Collision Center, 1570 Rockville Pike, 20852-1602. The Award identifies environmental practices taken by the facility, including recycling, alternative energy (the facility is 100% wind powered) and in compliance with international environmental performance standards.

Commissioners Becker, Cardon and Reed conducted a site visit and recommended approval of the award. Cardon moved and Becker seconded the motion which was approved 8-0. The award will be presented at the October 10 Mayor and Council meeting. The Commission noted that it had one remaining tabled nomination that should be taken up later in the fall.

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**Commission Display/Outreach Materials**

Commissioner Kravitz has agreed to store most of these materials at her home. Commissioner Lye agreed to store the watershed model. It was noted that the watershed model should be restocked with supplies and verify that all of the pieces were intact.

**Committee Reports**

**Watersheds**

- Goodman reported that the Committee met and discussed the status of the Adopt a Stream program. The Committee has decided to assist Amanda Matheny of the City staff with recruiting organizations and individuals to seek adoption of the remaining 9 stream segments.
- The Committee has scheduled its own stream clean up event at Maryvale Creek for Saturday, October 22. All Commissioners are expected to attend.

**Outreach**

- Commissioners Dighe and Kravitz reported on a meeting with Hometown Holidays coordinator Coleen McQuity of Recreation and Parks. By March 2012, the Commission should prepare a proposal for the type and size of space it needs at the 2012 event, including whether it will share or split the space over the two day period. The Commission should also include its thoughts on an environmental program (lecture, music, etc.). The festival has budgeted \$700 for the Commission's use.
- The Commission discussed holding an *open house* to recruit additional volunteers to assist with Commission projects and activities. The open house could also involve outreach on the Sustainable Maryland Certified initiative.
- The Commission also discussed creating a standard certificate of appreciation for volunteers participating in Commission initiatives.
- The Commission also discussed how to coordinate more closely with the Environmental Clubs of the three Rockville High Schools. Mark Charles will provide contact information to Commissioner Hosmer.
- The Committee is drafting a residential FOG article for *Rockville Reports*.

**Sustainable Development and Energy**

- The Committee met with Ecobeco to discuss options to install and pay for residential solar (PV) applications.
- The Committee is preparing a residential solar (PV) brochure.

**Strategic Retreat**

Commissioners will participate in a strategic retreat on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at the Cottage at Glenview Mansion. Mark Charles will facilitate. It was noted that if the weather was cooperative, the Annual Car Show would also be going on that same day.

**The Regularly-Scheduled October Commission Meeting**

In light of the strategic retreat on October 15, the October 22 stream clean up event, and the October 25 multi-city meeting, the regularly scheduled Commission business meeting that would be scheduled for October 11 was moved to the October 15 retreat.

**Environmental Management Report**

Mark Charles reported on the August tour of the Montgomery County Transfer Station. He also discussed progress in moving the high performance building tax credit proposal forward which requires amendments to Chapter 22 of the City Code.

Finally, Charles reported that the next Multi-City Environmental Commission meeting has been scheduled for October 25 in Greenbelt.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm by unanimous acclamation.

**Next Commission Meeting**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Saturday, **October 15, 2011** at 9:00 **am** at the **Glenview Mansion Cottage, 601 Edmonston Avenue**, Rockville, Maryland, 20851.